

Air Resource Management Enhancement



Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Minnesota, 2006

Manage standing cornstalks to serve as an annual snow fence

Definition

Snow fences can help maintain safer roadways by capturing blowing and drifting snow upwind of a problem area and storing that snow over the winter season.

Purpose

The purpose of leaving standing cornstalks in crop fields adjacent to known snow problem areas is to improve vehicle safety by reducing blowing and drifting snow.

Where Used

This practice applies to cropland upwind and adjacent to roadways and public utilities where snow, and high winds cause slick roads, snowdrifts and poor visibility. All designated areas must be approved by NRCS as being a snow problem area.

Operation and Maintenance

Producers must maintain a minimum width of 40 feet of standing cornstalks at 120 to 240 feet from the edge of the road right of way and, the minimum length necessary to provide effective treatment to the designated snow problem area.

The standing cornstalks must be left in place until March 31.

Payment Rate

The payment for the enhancement is an annual rate per linear foot of unharvested corn stalks.

Documentation Required

Provide a map of the location of the standing cornstalks.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the above information is correct and that, if requested, I will provide additional documentation to support the above information.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____